

**Connecticut Department of Transportation
State Project No. 144-191
Construction of the Pequonnock River Trail
From Route 127 to Quarry Road
Town of Trumbull
Public Informational Meeting Held at
Trumbull Town Hall Council Chambers
5866 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611
Thursday, January 9, 2014**

Minutes

Presentation:

- There were approximately 30 attendees, including the Town Engineer and Assistant Town Engineer for the town of Trumbull.
- A colored plan of the proposed improvements was displayed. This plan included a QR code, which allowed attendees to view an interactive 3D model of the proposed trail via their smart devices. The Department of Transportation (Department) presented the Preliminary Design to the attendees, including approximately a three-minute video walkthrough of the proposed 3D model.
- The primary purpose of the project is to enhance public use and recreation by providing trail continuity in the area. This is to be accomplished by constructing section C of the trail, which will connect to already constructed sections A (Tait Road to Manor Drive) and B (Manor Drive through Twin Brooks Park ending at White Plains Road, with sections D (Quarry Road to Trumbull Road), E (Trumbull Road to Beardsley Park), and F (Beardsley Park), which are scheduled for construction this year. Construction and/or installation of the following improvements are proposed:
 - A bicycle dismount area and short length of a ten-foot wide bituminous concrete (asphalt) multi-use trail between the existing wooden pedestrian bridge in Twin Brooks Park and Route 127
 - A signalized crosswalk at Route 127 directly adjacent to Twin Brooks Park and the Exit 7 off-ramp
 - An 8-foot wide bituminous concrete multi-use trail along the western side of Route 127
 - A 5-foot wide concrete sidewalk for pedestrian use along the east side of Rocky Hill Road
 - A 10-foot wide bituminous concrete multi-use trail from Rocky Hill Road to Quarry Road

- An approximately 80-foot long tunnel at the Route 15 off-ramp to Route 25
 - Pedestrian safety improvements to the abandoned railroad bridge (Bridge No. 00751) including: split-rail fence along the bridge approaches, black chain link fence along the bridge, and a new bituminous concrete wearing surface
 - An approximately 90-foot long tunnel at the Route 25 on-ramp to Route 15
- A drainage easement will be required directly south of the second tunnel.
 - Rights will be required to construct the trail in Twin Brooks Park. The public was made aware that the park is eligible for preservation under Section 4(f) of the 1966 DOT Act and that they have the right to comment on the impacts for up to two weeks after the meeting. These impacts will be reviewed by the FHWA and a Negative Declaration is anticipated. A Negative Declaration confirms the project is in accordance with the current and intended use of the park and that project impacts have been minimized to the extent possible.
 - One fire hydrant requires relocation on Route 127 and three utility poles require relocation on Rocky Hill Road.
 - The estimated construction cost of the project is \$3.6 million, which is to be 80% Federally funded and 20% State funded.
 - Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2016
 - The Rights-of-Way Representative outlined the rights-of-way process for the project.
 - The design schedule was outlined by the Department, citing the two week comment period followed by design approval and the rights-of-way process.

Public Comments and Questions:

- A resident asked for elaboration of the traffic signal's pedestrian phase at the Route 127 crosswalk. The Department explained that there will be an exclusive pedestrian phase installed at the crosswalk which will stop vehicular traffic, allowing pedestrians to safely cross Route 127.
- A resident inquired if there would be any structural modifications made to the bridge. The Department explained that no structural modifications are proposed on the bridge except for spot repairs that may be needed when the existing material on top of the bridge deck is removed to receive the asphalt wearing surface for the trail. Additional work on the bridge includes the installation of a

black chain link fence on both sides of the bridge for pedestrian safety. The fence will be mounted to the existing concrete curbing on the bridge deck.

- Several residents inquired whether any parking will be provided for trail users. The Department responded that no additional parking is proposed within the project limits however, parking is available at Twin Brooks Park.
- A property owner on Rocky Hill Road asked how vehicles will be kept off the trail. The Department explained that this aspect of the design hasn't been completed yet, however likely solutions include gates or removable bollards at strategic points on the trail.
- A resident expressed concerns about pedestrian safety walking through the tunnels. The Department explained that the tunnels will be illuminated and are relatively short so that trail users can see the entire tunnel before entering.
- A resident asked if the bridge was capable of supporting a fire engine. The Department replied that the bridge has been load tested and is capable of supporting the weight of a fire truck however, the proposed fence may be too short to provide access.
- A resident inquired how trail safety will be maintained. The Department explained that there is on-going coordination with the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief regarding trail safety and also that the trail will be accessible by most emergency vehicles.
- A resident expressed he is opposed to the project primarily due to security concerns. The Department noted the comment.
- A resident inquired if the Town will be responsible for trail maintenance. The Department confirmed that the Town will be responsible for maintaining the trail.
- A property owner on Rocky Hill Road asked if "No Parking" signs are proposed on Rocky Hill Road. The Department replied that signing for the project has not yet been designed however, the comment will be discussed during the signing design phase.
- A resident asked if a hard top surface other than asphalt has been considered for the trail. The Department explained that in the interest of maintaining uniformity with the already constructed sections of the trail, which are asphalt, no other surface has been considered.
- A resident inquired if a fence or barrier can be placed between the trail and Route 127 to provide separation between trail users and vehicular traffic. The Department described that the distance between the trail and Route 127 provides adequate separation without any barrier. Another resident inquired about using plantings as a visual barrier to achieve a similar effect. The Department explained that this can be considered however, sightline and maintenance considerations will likely preclude planting a visual barrier.

- A resident expressed his concern about pedestrian safety throughout the project. The resident requested: the Department to conduct a traffic study, install pedestrian phase timers on the traffic signal, install cameras on the traffic signal, and that the Department conduct a public hearing before the Planning and Zoning committee. The Department noted the request.
- A resident asked if the trail will be ADA compliant. The Department confirmed that the trail will be ADA accessible and compliant.
- A property owner on Rocky Hill Road inquired whether the trail will close at dusk, and if so how the closing will be handled on a day-to-day basis. The Department explained that it is anticipated the trail will be closed at dusk however, the details regarding this have not yet been discussed.

Adjournment: In general the project was well received by residents. Most concerns were in regards to trail safety, emergency vehicle access, and parking. The majority of these concerns were addressed by the Department in the question and answer session following the presentation. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.